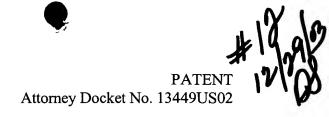
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				Group Art Unit		2631			
				Examiner Name		T. Ghebretinsae			
	Total Number of Pages	in This Submis	sion 5		Attorney Docket N	umber	13449US0	2	
	ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)								
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	SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT								
-	r modividual Name McAndrews Held & Malloy, Ltd.								
	Signature	The	Juny William						
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GROUP ART UNIT:	2631	By: July Wiberg			
EXAMINER:	T. Ghebretinsae	Reg. No. 44,401			
)	Attorney for applicant			

RESPONSE

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Technology Center 2600

Commissioner for Patents PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicant submits this paper in response to the Office Action mailed on October 9, 2003, in which the Examiner rejected all claims 1-9 and 40-46.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-8, 40 and 42-46 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Spickerman et al. (6,362,903). Claim 1 is directed to:

An apparatus for transmitting data on a fiber channel, the apparatus comprising: an input that receives a digital signal to be transmitted;

a plurality of programmable modulators each configured to accept a portion of the digital signal to be transmitted, and to modulate the portion of the digital signal accepted;